

CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of claims with a status identifier in parenthesis.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

/1. (cancelled)

2. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 4 wherein said icons are selected from the stencil and moved to the template.

3. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 4 further includes a plurality of icons that are connected to show a supply chain flow.

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4. (previously presented) A computer implemented apparatus for analyzing a manufacturing operation that contains a supply chain, said manufacturing operation having a plurality of manufacturing areas, said apparatus comprising:

a template for supplying a workspace to depict the supply chain related to the manufacturing operation;

icons which are predefined to depict factors of a supply chain; and

a stencil for storing the icons associated with one of the manufacturing areas, wherein the template comprises a perspective template having at least one supply chain icon, the perspective template providing a pre-populated framework to evaluate the manufacturing operation.

4/5. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 4 further includes at least one stencil selected from the group consisting of process flow stencil, logistics stencil, and environmental stencil.

5/6. (original) The apparatus of Claim 4 wherein said perspective template is selected from the group consisting of international template, logistics template, supplier template, and supplier process template.

7. (cancelled)

7/8. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein said icons are selected from the stencil and moved to the template.

8/9. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 10 further includes a plurality of icons that are connected to show a supply chain flow.

9/10. (previously presented) A computer implemented supply chain analysis apparatus comprising:

a template for supplying a workspace to depict a supply chain related to a manufacturing operation;

icons which are predefined to depict factors of an automotive supply chain; and

a stencil for storing icons associated with a vehicle manufacturing area, wherein the template comprises a perspective template having at least one supply chain icon,

the perspective template providing a pre-populated framework to evaluate the manufacturing operation.

⁹11. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim ⁶10 further includes at least one stencil selected from the group consisting of process flow stencil, logistics stencil, and environmental stencil.

¹⁰12. (original) The apparatus of Claim ⁶10 wherein said perspective template is selected from the group consisting of international template, logistics template, supplier template, and supplier process template.

13. (withdrawn) A method for supply chain mapping and analyzing of vehicle manufacturing related to parts and components comprising the steps of:

- (a) identifying a component or system for supply chain mapping;
- (b) providing the supply chain map with a part icon representing the part;
- (c) identifying the components used to assemble the part;
- (d) providing the supply chain map with supplier icons representing the suppliers who supply the components at various tiers; the supplier icons selected from the group consisting of: Tier One Supplier, Tier Two Supplier and Tier Three Supplier; and
- (e) using icons to depict risks and opportunities associated with the supply chain of step (d).

14. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 13 further includes identifying via placing icons on the supply chain at least one process related to each item of the components.

15. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 13 further includes identifying via placing icons on the supply chain map at least one mode of transportation related to the components.

16. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 13 further includes identifying via placing icons on the supply chain map border crossings related to the component.

17. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 13 further includes hyperlinking an icon to an information screen.

18. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 13 further includes modifying the supply chain map based on analyzing the supply chain.

19. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 22 further includes hyperlinking an icon to a database.

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20. (previously presented) A system for analyzing a supply chain, the supply chain having multiple tiers of suppliers geographically removed from one another or from end users of products provided by the suppliers, and for optimizing a delivery process discovered using the system for analyzing the supply chain, the system adapted for use on a computer or network of computers, the system comprising:

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a graphical interface system comprising at least one perspective template having a pre-arranged supply chain representation, the supply chain representation configured to provide information about the supply chain in a format useful to a particular user or participant in the supply chain, and a stencil including a plurality of iconic representations of elements for inclusion in the supply chain representation by the particular user.